

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/068,815

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

Applicant(s)

KIJIMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/14/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6 and 15-33 (Renumbered as 1-20).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



VIVEK SRIVASTAVA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600
Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20060920

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on September 14, 2006 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent 6,700,610 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Response to Amendment

2. The Examiner acknowledges the amended claims filed on September 14, 2006. Claims 26-28, 30 and 31 have been amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 6 and 15-33 (Renumbered as 1-20 respectively) are allowed.**
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 6 (Renumbered as 1), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, a control means for lowering a sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when a supply voltage level is lower than a predetermined voltage.

Regarding claim 15 (Renumbered as 2), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, changing the frequency of the sweep-out signal to lower frequency when a supply voltage is lower than a predetermined voltage and lies within a given voltage range.

Regarding claim 16 (Renumbered as 3), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, changing the frequency of the sweep-out signal to lower frequency when a supply voltage level of the power source is lower than a first predetermined voltage and is greater than a second predetermined voltage which is less than said first predetermined voltage.

Regarding claim 18 (Renumbered as 5), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, changing a frequency of a sweep-out signal to a lower frequency in preparation for a sweep-out operation to sweep-out unnecessary charge when a supply voltage level is lower than a predetermined voltage and lies within a given voltage range.

Regarding claim 21 (Renumbered as 8), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, changing a frequency of a sweep-out signal to a lower frequency in preparation for a sweep-out operation to sweep out unnecessary charge in the imaging element when a supply voltage level of the power

source is lower than a predetermined voltage and lies within a given voltage range; monitoring a lens stop responsive to operation of the shutter release button to the fully depressed position; and changing the frequency of the sweep-out signal to the lower frequency when the lens stop is on.

Regarding claim 25 (Renumbered as 12), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, a control means monitoring said power source for controlling said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal having said higher frequency when the supply voltage level is greater than a first predetermined voltage.

Regarding claim 26 (Renumbered as 13), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, a control means monitoring said power source for controlling said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal having said higher frequency when the supply voltage level is greater than a first predetermined voltage and that the control means operates said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal of said lower frequency when said supply voltage level is less than said first predetermined voltage and greater than a second predetermined voltage which is lower than said first predetermined voltage.

Regarding claim 27 (Renumbered as 14), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, a control means monitoring said power

Art Unit: 2622

source for controlling said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal having said higher frequency when the supply voltage level is greater than a first predetermined voltage and that the control means includes means to prevent operation of the imaging element when the supply voltage level is less than said second predetermined voltage.

Regarding claim 28 (Renumbered as 15), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, a control means monitoring said power source for controlling said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal having said higher frequency when the supply voltage level is greater than a first predetermined voltage and that the imaging apparatus includes a shutter release button, a first switch means operative when a shutter release button is moved to a partially depressed position; second switch means operative when the shutter release button is moved to a fully depressed position; and said control means monitoring said power source when said first switch means is operated.

Regarding claim 31 (Renumbered as 18), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, a control means monitoring said power source for controlling said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal having said higher frequency when the supply voltage level is greater than a first predetermined voltage and that the control means reinitiates monitoring of said power source when said second switch means is not operated after completion of a previous battery check sequence.

Regarding claim 32 (Renumbered as 19), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, a control means monitoring said power source for controlling said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal having said higher frequency when the supply voltage level is greater than a first predetermined voltage and that the control means prevents monitoring of said power source when said supply voltage level is less than said second predetermined voltage.

Regarding claim 33 (Renumbered as 20), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, monitoring said power source when the shutter release button is operated to a first position for controlling said signal generator to generate a sweep out signal having said higher frequency when the supply voltage level is greater than a first predetermined voltage; and monitoring a condition of a lens stop responsive to operation of said shutter release button to a second position of reducing the frequency of the sweep-out signal when a lens stop is not operated and when the supply voltage level is less than said first predetermined value.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

Art Unit: 2622

supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571) 272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

NDHH
September 20, 2006



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